

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 2673, Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

The House agreed to H.J. Res. 82, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Tuesday, December 9, 2003, at 10 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 49 public bills, H.R. 3651–3699; 1 private bill, H.R. 3700; and 19 resolutions, H.J. Res. 82–83; H. Con. Res. 345–348, and H. Res. 474–485, were introduced.

Pages H12917–21

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H12921–23

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows today:

H. Res. 473, waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 (H. Rept. 108–402);

H.R. 3478, to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration (H. Rept. 108–403).

Page H12917

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Boozman to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H12747

Recess: The House recessed at 10 a.m. and reconvened at 11 a.m.

Page H12751

Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2004: The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 2673, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 (also contains FY2004 appropriations for Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-State, District of Columbia, Foreign Operations, Labor-HHS-Education, Transportation-Treasury, and VA-HUD), by a yeas-and-nays vote of 242 yeas to 176 nays, Roll No. 676.

Pages H12766–H12845

Agreed to H. Res. 473, providing for consideration of the conference report, by a recorded vote of 216 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 675, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yeas-and-nays vote of 214 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 674.

Pages H12760–65

Agreed to H. Res. 465, providing for same day consideration of H. Res. 473, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, by a recorded vote of 212 yeas to 182 nays, Roll No. 673, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yeas-and-nays vote of 211 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 672.

Pages H12754–60

Question of Privileges of the House: The House agreed to table H. Res. 474, concerning a matter of

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the privileges of the House, by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 182 nays, Roll No. 677.

Pages H12846–54

Committee to Notify the President: The House agreed to H. Res. 476, providing for a committee of two Members to be appointed by the House to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that the two Houses have completed its business of the session and are ready to adjourn, unless the President has some other communication to make to them. Subsequently, the Chair announced the appointment of Representatives DeLay and Pelosi to the committee.

Page H12854

Resignations—Appointments: Agreed that for the remainder of the 108th Congress, the Speaker, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

Page H12854

Extension of Remarks: Agreed that Members may have until publication of the last edition of the Congressional Record authorized for the first session of the 108th Congress by the Joint Committee on Printing to revise and extend their remarks and to include brief, related extraneous material on any matter occurring before the adjournment of the first session sine die.

Page H12854

CAN–SPAM Act of 2003: The House agreed to the Senate amendments to the House amendments on S. 877, to regulate interstate commerce by imposing limitations and penalties on the transmission of unsolicited commercial electronic mail via the Internet.

Pages H12854–61

Defense Production Act Reauthorization of 2003: The House agreed to the Senate amendments to the House amendments on S. 1680, to reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950.

Pages H12861–62

Printing of House Document: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 345, authorizing the printing as a House document of the transcripts of the proceedings of “The Changing Nature of the House Speakership: The Cannon Centenary Conference”, sponsored by the Congressional Research Service on November 12, 2003.

Page H12862

Mental Health Parity Reauthorization Act of 2003: The House passed S. 1929, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to extend the mental health benefits parity provisions for an additional year.

Pages H12863–64

Federal Law Enforcement Pay and Benefits Parity Act of 2003: The House passed S. 1683, to provide for a report on the parity of pay and benefits among Federal law enforcement officers and to estab-

lish an exchange program between Federal law enforcement employees and State and local law enforcement employees.

Pages H12864–65

Continuing Appropriations for FY 2004: The House passed H.J. Res. 82, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

Page H12865

Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003: The House agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 1012, to establish the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in the District of Columbia.

Pages H12865–66

Captive Wildlife Safety Act: The House agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 1006, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the conservation of certain wildlife species.

Page H12866

Coconino and Tonto National Forests Land Exchange: The House agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 622, to provide for the exchange of certain lands in the Coconino and Tonto National Forests in Arizona.

Page H12866

Preserving Independence of Financial Institution Examinations Act of 2003: The House passed S. 1947, to prohibit the offer of credit by a financial institution to a financial institution examiner.

Pages H12866–67

Tax on Imported Archery Products: The House passed H.R. 3652, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the taxation of imported archery products.

Pages H12867–68

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: The House agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 100, to restate, clarify, and revise the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act of 1940.

Pages H12868–78

American Dream Downpayment Act: The House passed S. 811, to support certain housing proposals in the fiscal year 2003 budget for the Federal Government, including the downpayment assistance initiative under the HOME Investment Partnership Act, and for other purposes.

Pages H12889–92

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H12747–48.

Senate Referral: S. 33 was referred to the Committees on Resources and Agriculture; S. 1537 was referred to the Committee on Resources; S. 1683 was referred to the Committee on Government Reform; S. 99, S. 103, S. 460, S. 541, S. 848, S. 1130, and S. 1920 were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary; S. 648 and S. 1881 were referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and S. 1402 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Page H12909

Presidential Message: Read a letter from the President wherein he transmitted the annual report of the Railroad Retirement Board—referred to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means. **Page H12878**

Message from the Clerk: Read a letter from the Clerk wherein he designated Gerasimos C. Vans, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do other acts under the name of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or if Mr. Vans is not available, then Mr. Daniel J. Strodel, Assistant to the Clerk or Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Assistant to the Clerk should perform these duties. **Pages H12878–79**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H12758–59, H12759–60, H12765, H12766, H12845, and H12853–54. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9:30 a.m. and at 9:40 p.m., in accordance with the provisions of H. Con. Res. 339, the first session of the 108th Congress adjourned sine die.

Committee Meetings

CONFERENCE REPORT—CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Chairman Young and Representatives Obey and Andrews.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1337)

H.R. 1588, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces. Signed on November 24, 2003. (Public Law 108–136).

H.R. 2754, making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004. Signed on December 1, 2003. (Public Law 108–137).

S. 1066, to correct a technical error from Unit T–07 of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System. Signed on December 1, 2003. (Public Law 108–138).

S.J. Res. 18, commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years. Signed on December 1, 2003. (Public Law 108–139).

S.J. Res. 22, recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research. Signed on December 1, 2003. (Public Law 108–140).

S. 1590, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 315 Empire Boulevard in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, New York, as the “James E. Davis Post Office Building”. Signed on December 1, 2003. (Public Law 108–141).

S. 254, to revise the boundary of the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in the State of Hawaii. Signed on December 2, 2003. (Public Law 108–142).

S. 867, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 710 Wicks Lane in Billings, Montana, as the “Ronald Reagan Post Office Building”. Signed on December 2, 2003. (Public Law 108–143).

S. 1718, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3710 West 73rd Terrace in Prairie Village, Kansas, as the “Senator James B. Pearson Post Office”. Signed on December 2, 2003. (Public Law 108–144).

H.R. 3182, to reauthorize the adoption incentive payments program under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act. Signed on December 2, 2003. (Public Law 108–145).

H.R. 23, to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize communities to use community development block grant funds for construction of tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks. Signed on December 3, 2003. (Public Law 108–146).

H.R. 1683, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2003, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans. Signed on December 3, 2003. (Public Law 108–147).

H.R. 1904, to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the